



May 2015

Ohio League Leader Updates

Contents

1. 2015 State Convention Recap
2. New Study - Primary Election Systems
3. Know Your Ohio Government (KYOG) Fund
4. Summer & Fall Internships Available!
5. June All Member Conference Call

1. 2015 State Convention Recap

Thank you to all the League members who attended the State Convention! A special thanks to the League volunteers and sponsors who made the event a success! The theme of this year's Convention was "1920 to 2015: Celebrating 95 years of Empowering Voters and Better Government."

Below are some of the highlights from the Convention

- **Thank you to our outgoing 2013-2015 state board**



LWVO/EF extends our sincere thanks to our outgoing 2013-2015 Board for their service and dedication to Making Democracy Work! -- Nancy Brown, Ann Henkener, Sharon Harmer, Dave Patton, Susan Doup, Yvette Duguay, Linda Lehman, Terrie Nielsen, and Ruth Tootle.

- **Welcome to our new 2015-2017 state board!**

LWVO/EF welcomes our new 2015-2017 state board. -- Alison Ricker, Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, Andrea Cobb, Marlene Muse, Janet Kershaw, Tamara Hardgrove-Shomo, Alfreda Brown, Janet Chittock, Dorothy Kane, Alice Schneider, Marti (Martha) Kleinfelter, Michele McBride Simonelli, and Kristin Vessey. [Click here](#) to read biographies of our new board members.

- **Speakers**



The Saturday luncheon featured Marcia Johnson-Blanco, speaking on "Carrying the Torch: Celebrating the Legacies of 95 Years of Women Voting and 50 Years of the Voting Rights Act." - Marcia Johnson-Blanco is the Co-director of the Lawyers' Committee's Voting Rights Project. She manages the Project's

6.
**Keep Track of Your League's
Information during the
Database Downtime
(REMINDER) -From the
LWVUS**

7.
**Edith Chase Symposium
opens with "Not a drop to
drink"**

8.
**MLD Tip: Check Out
These Leadership Resources!**

programmatic and advocacy portfolios which include leading Election Protection, the nation's largest non-partisan voter protection program, overseeing the work of the National Commission on Voting Rights, promoting election reform, ensuring minority participation in the redistricting process and ensuring that those with felony convictions regain their right to vote. Marcia is a recognized voting rights expert who has participated in countless voting rights discussions at conferences and in the media. She also coordinates the Lawyer's Committee's international human rights initiatives. She received her J.D. from Villanova University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree in Linguistics from Georgetown University.



Saturday's Dinner Banquet featured Scott Greytak, speaking on "The Continuing Fallout from Citizens United: Buying Justice." - Scott joined Justice at Stake in September of 2014, bringing a diverse background in law practice, policy advancement, and academic scholarship. He comes to JAS from private practice, where he worked at the intersection of civil rights and education law. His research in these fields has been published in domestic and international law reviews, and featured in The New York Times and The Chronicle of Higher Education. Scott earlier worked at the Ohio Public Defender, where he helped achieve positive results for indigent clients and developed coalition-led issue campaigns. He began his legal career at the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio. Scott serves as a Vice-Chair of Events for the American Constitution Society's D.C. Lawyers Chapter, and is a member of the "New Pathways to Higher Education Diversity" coalition. He is a two-time graduate of Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, where he received a B.A. in Political Science and a J.D. from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

- **Workshops**

[Developing New Leaders](#) - Melissa Currence, our Ruth S. Shur Fellow/National Coach and LWV Cincinnati Area VP of Development lead a lively discussion of how your League can develop new leaders.

[Diversity Roundtable](#) - Alison Ricker and Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick of the Oberlin Area facilitated discussions around a list of seven questions, with a goal to identify strategies to attract and retain a more diverse membership. [Click here](#) to see the list of seven questions. Local leagues may want to use these same questions, as part of a Board Leadership Retreat or membership meetings.

[Best Practices for Managing LWV Finances](#) - Nena Hankins, LWVO Budget Chair and LWV Kent Treasurer, and Janet Kershaw, LWVO Treasurer provided guidance for League treasurers and presidents on what paperwork Leagues are required to file, when filings are due, common pitfalls to avoid, and what to do when you encounter problems.

[What Can We Do About the Flow of Money in Politics?](#) - In November 2014, voters in Tallahassee, Florida passed a local anti-corruption act aimed at stopping the influence of money in politics. Dan Krassner, Political Director from Represent.Us. provided an informational session on their successful effort in Tallahassee and future plans to tackle this issue in other communities across the US.

[Click here](#) to read more about the Convention workshops and topics and program in Convention Workbook.

[Click here](#) to view photos from Convention and links to some of the Convention materials available to the Convention attendees. Local Leagues are encouraged to use these materials and photos in their Voter newsletter and local League membership meetings.

- **2 - year budget approved, PMP freeze continued**

Our state PMP will remain at \$25 per member as it has for the past five years and this freeze will extend to two more years. The 5% discount for early payment of dues (by September 30) will continue.

- **Program report**

LWVO positions renewed, convention delegates approved study of primary election systems.

2. New Study - Primary Election Systems

A new LWVO committee to study Primary Election Systems expects to get underway in June, thanks to unanimous authorization by State Convention delegates in mid-May. The committee consists of twelve members so far, from local Leagues in the Cleveland, Youngstown, Oberlin, Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati areas. If members are interested in being on the committee, they should contact the state office. Non-member academics or experts are also welcome. There will be a few in-person meetings but mostly the committee will meet by phone, in order to choose leadership, decide how to approach the data and share what they are learning. If a grant application comes through, there may be a research assistant to buttress their efforts. Materials should be out to local Leagues before this time next year, in preparation for information and consensus meetings early in the 2016-17 League year.

3. Know Your Ohio Government (KYOG) Fund

We are delighted to announce that at the convention this past weekend, we collected enough pledges from members to match our Know Your Ohio Government book update pledge from the Nordson Foundation! This means we will be able to move forward with this exciting project this fall. Expect to see the new and revised KYOG booklet available at all major online retailers as an ebook and in paperback, for a fraction of the cost we were selling it at before! Thank you to each and every member who supported with a pledge donation. We are so pleased we will be able to offer a new version of this wonderful civic resource to educators and libraries throughout the state soon.

4. Summer & Fall Internships Available!

Do you know a college student who is looking to gain valuable experience in a fast-paced work environment? Encourage them to apply for the LWV Ohio Internship Program! We are accepting applications for:

- Legislative & Public Policy Intern
- Voter Service Intern
- Communications & Marketing Intern

[Click here](#) for job descriptions and how to apply.

5. June All Member Conference Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 12-1 pm.

Topic & Speakers: [OhioCheckbook.com](#): Using technology to hold public officials accountable. Seth Unger, Senior Policy Advisor for Public Affairs and John Roscoe, Director of Public Affairs, Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel.

Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel launched [OhioCheckbook.com](#) in December 2014, which placed more than \$408 billion in state spending online for the first time in Ohio history. This cutting edge website is credited with setting a new national standard for transparency, and empowering Ohioans to hold their elected officials accountable. It has improved Ohio's transparency ranking from 46th to 1st in the nation according to the nonpartisan U.S. Public Interest Research Group. Treasurer Mandel's office will demonstrate [OhioCheckbook.com](#), and discuss ways the League can help with the next step in the Treasurer's Transparency Project - getting checkbooks for 3,962 Ohio schools, cities, counties and other local government entities online.

GoToWebinar - See conference call information below

1. Click to start and join at the specified time and date:

https://login.citrixonline.com/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fglobal.gotowebinar.com%2Fj_spring_cas_security_check

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

2. Choose one of the following audio options:

TO USE YOUR COMPUTER'S AUDIO: When the Webinar begins, you will be connected to audio using your computer's microphone and speakers (VoIP). A headset is recommended.

-- OR --

TO USE YOUR TELEPHONE: If you prefer to use your phone, you must select "Use Telephone" after joining the webinar and call in using the numbers below.

Long Distance: +1 (646) 307-1706

Access Code: 323-246-575

Audio PIN: Shown after joining the webinar

6. Keep Track of Your League's Information during the Database Downtime (REMINDER) - From the LWVUS

During the database downtime, please continue to keep a record of all member and leadership changes. Keeping it all in one place will make it easier when the new CRM goes live. As a reminder, the new system will allow Roster Managers to access the database using their email address and personal password, so no more hunting down the right credentials! [Click on](#) the survey and enter the information for your League's Roster Manager(s).

7. Edith Chase Symposium opens with "Not a Drop to Drink"

If you farm, fish or drink water, you should attend "Not a Drop to Drink," a multi-media presentation and panel discussion set for June 5th in Kent about the 2014 contamination of the Toledo water supply. The League of Women Voters of Kent and Kent Environmental Council are working to spread the word and hoping you can share this on your Facebook page or your League website or in a newsletter. [Click here](#) to read the news release and [click here](#) for the event flyer.

8. MLD Tip: Check Out These Leadership Resources!

At this time of leadership transition, the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team reminds League leaders that LWVO offers a wide variety of leadership resources in one handy place, for your convenience. [Click here](#) to access the leadership materials.

You can find tips for presidents, treasurers, membership, voter-service and advocacy chairs -- guides for board orientation, publications, fundraising and using social media - and everything in between. Check it out - there's something here for everyone!